

Seven-part television series examines modern warfare

War, an unprecedented series of seven one-hour films examining the nature, evolution and consequences of modern warfare, has been produced by the National Film Board of Canada. Presently being screened on the CBC television network, the series was written and conceived by Canadian international affairs journalist and military historian Gwynne Dyer, who also appears as on-camera host.

For three years, a team of researchers, directors, cameramen and editors has worked at the National Film Board in Montreal to create this unique seven-part series on war. Extensive original shooting took place in ten countries, on two oceans and with the armed forces of six nations.

The series includes exclusive film interviews with Soviet military leaders and strategists, the result of a year of careful negotiations with the Soviet government. The filmmakers who have drawn on film and picture archives throughout the world, have visited dozens of important battlefields, from the Golan Heights in the Middle East to the plains of western Russia. Also featured are interviews with famous soldiers, eminent historians, senior commanders and professional observers of combat.

Rare archival material

The first episode of the series, *The Road to Total War*, was shot in Europe and



Soldier in combat training exercise at Camp Gagetown, New Brunswick.

North America and moves from locations in Kursk, Russia to an American Civil War battlefield in Virginia and the New Mexican desert testing site of the first atomic bomb. It includes rare



NFB director Paul Cowan (right) with Gwynne Dyer (centre), who conceived, wrote and appears as on-camera host of War. They are seen here on location on the Golan Heights.

Series honoured in Switzerland

It has just been announced that the NFB series *War* has won two major awards at the fifteenth International Film Festival in Nyon, Switzerland.

The series was awarded the international jury's Silver Sesterce and the public jury's Grand Prize. In presenting the Silver Sesterce, the international jury commented that "*War* presents an indispensable look at the mechanism of war and the absurdity of war in the world in which we live".

The public jury judged the series to be exceptional for its "commentary and presentation, the strength of the direction, its complete lack of pretention or demagoguery, and its humane message — comprehensible to all social and intellectual levels".

The public jury "congratulates author Gwynne Dyer and the National Film Board of Canada on the success of their great work, a fine example of professional achievement. The jury hopes that their message will be understood and recognized around the world and that one day the meaning of the original title of the work, *Good-bye War*, will become a reality".

archival material documenting the early wars of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

The second episode, *Anybody's Son Will Do*, looks at what it takes to make a soldier, while episode three, *The Profession of Arms*, visits the Soviet Union, Israel, Canada and the United States to examine some of the career officers who devote their lives to maintaining military organizations.

Episode four, *The Deadly Game of Nations*, which focuses on the wars in the Middle East, includes footage shot during the Israeli invasion of Lebanon in 1982.

In the final episode, *Goodbye War*, Gwynne Dyer looks at why previous efforts at change have failed and why we must find another way of settling our disputes if we are to survive.

The entire *War* series will be available to purchase or borrow in 16-millimetre film and video formats from all National Film Board offices from January 1984.

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